Tucker file

TUCKER

Stephen Benjamin Tucker
b. 12 Dec. 1858 in Lauderdale Co. Miss
d. 28 July 1945 in Lauderdale Co. Miss
Buried - in Pine Grove Bapt. Ch. Cem., Martin
Lauderdale Co., Miss

m. 1st ca 1887/88
Daisy Amos and Mary Jane (McShane) McLemore
Victoria McLemore
b. 20 Dec. 1864 in Miss
d. 22 June 1888
Buried - Bonita Bapt Ch. Cem.,
Lauderdale Co., Miss

Infant Son b & d. 22 June 1888
Buried with Mother

Stephen B Tucker m 2nd 6 Oct. 1893 in Kemper Co., Miss
Daughter of Calvin Calhoun and Sarah Elizabeth (Vence) Pruitt

OVER

Jessie Leona "Ones" Pruitt
b. 7 Jan 1872 in Leo, Kemper Co., Miss
d. 2 Aug. 1957 in Chunky, Kemper Co., Miss
Buried in Pine Grove Bapt. Ch. Cem

Stephen Benjamin Tucker & Victoria M. "Lemon" Tucker

He soon reenlisted in the 52nd Regiment (formerly designated as the 2nd Giles County Regiment) of West Tennessee Militia where, on July 20, 1814, he was commissioned an ensign. His company commander was Abraham Byler. At this time Moses's home was located near that of his father, Amos, in Fractional Section 5, Range 1, on Big Creek in the 7th District of Giles County. This continued to be his home until July 17, 1815, when he gave a power-of-attorney to Abraham Byler for the purpose of receiving his overdue military pay. Thereafter, Moses's name does not appear in Tennessee records. Sometime that year he removed to the Mississippi Territory where, according to the Census of 1816, he and someone named Richard McLemore were living in Wayne County.

It does not seem likely, or even possible, that this Richard could have been the younger brother of Moses. Moses was 28 years old when he left Tennessee in 1815. The 1816 census of Wayne County shows Moses as being over 21 years old, married, and with three daughters under 21 years of age. The Wayne County census shows Richard ~~in about~~ as being over 21 years of age, married, and with one son and one daughter under 21 years of age. At the time the Mississippi Territorial Census of 1816 was taken, Richard, the brother of Moses, would

PC93.390

have been 17 or 18 years old, unmarried, and according to such evidence as the following, still in Giles County, Tennessee.

Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (Chicago, IL: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891), Vol. 1, p. 1226, states that Richard McLemore ". . . was a native of North Carolina, and removed from that state to Tennessee with his parents when but a boy. He remained at home, assisting in the care of his family until he was twenty-one years of age. He then came to Mississippi, and was married in Covington county, in August, 1821, to Nancy P. Hill." Since Richard's family bible gives his birth date as September 21, 1798, he could not, by this account, have come to Mississippi before September 21, 1819, which is reasonably close to the time suggested by other evidence that Equilla and her new husband, John Tyner, came to Lawrence County with the younger McLemore children after the death of Amos Maclemore.

The tax rolls of Wayne County for 1817 and 1819 include the names of Richard and Moses, respectively. This may be the last clear reference to the older Richard. By 1822, Moses had moved to recently created Perry County where he seems to have lived until at least 1827. On August 9, 1821, Richard, the younger brother of Moses, married Nancy Perry Hill in Covington County which was created in 1819 from Lawrence and Wayne counties. In 1826, Jones County was created from Covington and Wayne counties.

References to Richard McLemore in Covington and Jones county records, subsequent to the creation of Jones from Covington and Wayne in 1826, seem all to refer to the brother of Moses. For example, the brothers Richard, Moses, and Josiah are shown in Jones County in 1827.

It is not known who this early Richard McLemore was unless he is to be identified with the Richard McLemore who was born in 1784 in South Carolina, and, according to U.S. census data, lived in Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi, in 1840 and 1850. This Richard would have been 32 years old at the time of the 1816 state census.

FATHER TIME

MISSISSIPPI MAGIC

This was his ninety-first Christmas..... Father Time, his long white beard touching the earth, his knarled hand grasping a crooked staff, has bidden a fond farewell to him ninety-one times. A New Year has dawned just as many times..... His name is **Bob Snell**. His father was Robert— he didn't want his son to be called by a nickname, so he just went ahead and gave him the name 'Bob' at birth. He was born in the Bonita Community outside Meridian, Mississippi in the winter of 1898.

with Linnie Golden

"Everyone in the community had prayed his mother would have a healthy child when my father was born. She had had numerous miscarriages and was forty years old when he was born," **Ray Snell** smiles across the room at his now aging father. "These prayers went on for months before his birth, and he is the result of those prayers. He's been healthy all his life."

Bob Snell's roots reach deep into Mississippi soil. His mother, **Kate McLemore Snell** was the daughter of **Joshua McLemore**, son of **Richard McLemore**, credited as being 'The Father of Meridian'. In 1834, Richard had a claim to 700 acres where the city now stands. He began to recruit neighbors from his native Virginia. Joshua was one of two sons born to the McLemores. One of their seven daughters, **Jurlah McLemore Jackson**, built the house now known as 'Merrehope'.

Bob's grandfather, Robert Snell, fought in the Civil War and was killed in the Battle of Atlanta.

It was in 1905 that Bob's father built the sturdy homestead which still offers protection from the heat and cold for Bob and his son Ray. He bought the homeplace from his father when his father moved to Texas. It was here that he reared his four children, **Robert, Mary Kate, Reese**, and **Ray**.

Meridian was on the move the year they built the old homeplace. Forty passenger trains were passing through Meridian each day. Timber

was becoming a powerful tool for wealth. By 1907, the Meridian Lumber Company was producing 50 million feet of lumber annually, making it one of the largest in the South. By this time, Meridian was claiming the status of being the largest city in the state, and remained so until 1930, when Jackson took the lead.

Human progress has moved at such a rapid pace within this ninety-one year sojourn of Bob Snell's, that the mind really cannot keep up. Meridian's mule-drawn streetcars gave way to modern streetcars running on electric lines. The present-day courthouse was built the same year the Snell's raised the walls to their new home. A fire department was soon established. Then, in 1909, Highland Park opened and the Dentzel Carousel was purchased.

'The War to End All Wars' had no trouble recruiting the handsome young man from Meridian. He could have begged deferment by being an only son, but he anxiously joined ranks with his fellow citizens. It was a privilege . . . an honor of the highest degree!

"I enlisted when I was eighteen," Snell's voice is frail, now, at times barely audible. "They sent me to France. I stayed there eighteen months. There was sure a different attitude then about fighting for your freedom."

Upon returning home from World War I, Bob Snell married **Ella B. Williams**, a young lady from Union. Ella died three years ago. Their sixty-seven-year marriage had kept their promise of, 'til death do us part'. These years bring warm memories for Bob now. The couple shared the deep satisfaction that can only come from a life well-lived.

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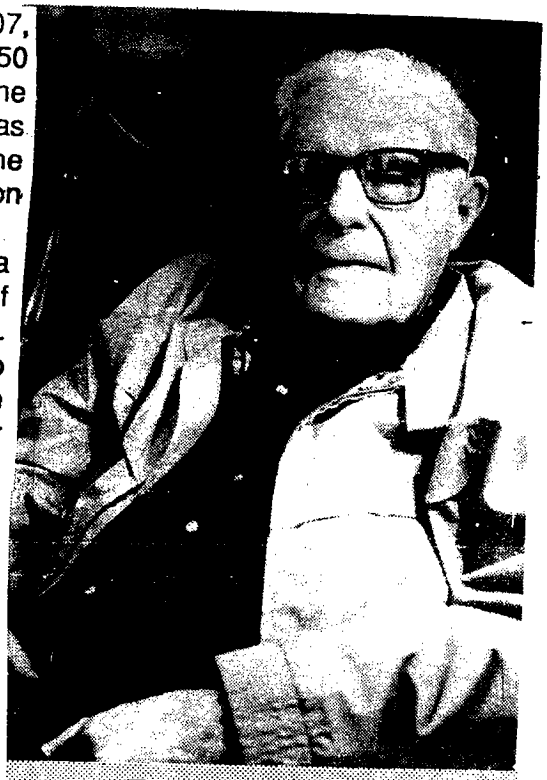

Bob J. Snell

The advent of the automobile came within Snell's ninety-one years. And then, the highways, and the super highways and the interstates.

The Crash of '29 is well-remembered by Bob Snell. This period knocked Meridian into a financial disaster, and Jackson moved into first place as Mississippi's largest city. However, because of Meridian's diversification through both agricultural and industrial enterprises, Meridian remained Mississippi's industrial center through the 1930's. Meridian High School was built in the 30's, and the Meridian Municipal Junior College opened its doors in 1937.

Meridian had an airport by this time, managed by the Key brothers, **Al** and **Fred**. World-wide attention came to Meridian through these brothers as their plane, the 'Ole Miss', remained in the air 27 days in 1934, breaking all records for sustained flight with incredible mid-flight refueling stunts. The 'Ole Miss' has a final

"Who knows today from yesterday
May learn to count no thing too strange:
Love builds of what Time takes away,
Til Death itself is less than Change."

Edward Arlington Robinson

resting place in the Smithsonian Institution.

Two of Bob's four children are gone now. The firstborn, Robert, was only twenty-one when he died. He was multi-talented, which seemed to make the loss of his life seem particularly wasteful. He was a young man of vision and filled with dreams for the future. The same fierce pride in country which sent Bob Snell to France back in World War I, sustained him when he and Ella were notified that they had lost their son, shot down in a fiery battle in World War II. Mary Kate, the only daughter, died in 1983.

Bob is deeply grateful that his second son, Ray, now retired from the Postal Service, lives with him, thus allowing him the comfort and peace of remaining in the house he's called home for the past eighty-four years.

Listed in the USM Hall of Fame for both baseball and football is the name of Reese Snell, Bob's third son. Coach

see Mississippi Magic page15

Mississippi Magic cont. from p. 14.

Snell was principal of Hattiesburg High School until retirement.

He's seen enough change, (from the horse and buggy to man's first walk on the moon), to know that everything changes— yet remains the same. His deep faith has given a consistency and continuity, sustaining him through the winters. Bob Snell knows the tide comes in and then recedes; the sun rises, giving light, and then sets, bringing darkness. Rain comes in abundance on the farm fields of the world, after the plague of drought. And even when the winter sends her chilling winds against the old Snell homeplace — as she has this week, with temperatures dropping to zero —— he's seen enough winters to know there's always a spring! He has personally seen ninety of them! Seldom before has a year closed with as many radical changes, world wide, as has 1989. With the dawning of yet another decade, comes the dawning of a new age in eastern Europe. Father Time makes his exit . . . Bob Snell waits . . . with the calm assurance bequeathed to those who know Who holds the future.

MM

Son of Robert and Kate H. (McLemore) Smell

* Bob Jefferson Smell
b. 1898 in Bonita, Lauderdale Co., Miss.
(living 12/27-1989, age 91, in Bonita, Miss.)
(* Named Bob, Not Robert, by father - so he would Not be Called by a Nickname)

Married 19— (after returning from/from WWI
To: Daughter of Henry Jefferson and Alice Elizabeth Jolly Williamson
No 6)
Ella B. Williamson
b. 1 Sept. 1899 in Union, Newton Co., Miss.
d. 30 March 1986 in Meridian Lauderdale Co., Miss.
Buried - in Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Bonita, Lauderdale Co., Miss.

Children - (4 - 3 Sons, 1 dau. - 2 Sons living 12/27, 1989)

1. Robert Smell, b. — —— 19—
d. (age 21, WW II Casualty)

2. Mary Kate Smell, b. 19 Dec. 1927.
d. 8 Dec. 1983.
m. —— Gullett

3. Reese H. Smell, b — —— 19—
(living 12/27-1989 in Hattiesburg, Miss). He is listed in U.S.M Hall of Fame for both baseball and football. Retired Coach and Principal, Hattiesburg High School.

4. Ray W. Smell b. — —— 19—

Cont'd over

(living 12/27/1989 in Bonita, Miss, with his father.) He is Retired from the Postal Service.

Information from:
Obit - Meridian Star, Monday, 31 March, 1986, Ella Snell, P. 2B.
Impact, Wednesday, 27 Dec. 1989 - Sheet, - Bob Snell
Family information - Telesy William L. Blanks

Ella B. (Williamson) Snell had 1 Sister living (March 31, 1986), Mrs. Zexa Waltman, of Overton, Texas. 5 grand children and 2 great-grandchildren

2B THE MERIDIAN STAR Monday, March 31, 1986

Ella Snell

Services for Ella Snell will be held Tuesday at 3 p.m. from Oak Grove Baptist Church with the Rev. Leon Adams and the Rev. Barney Shamp officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery with Webb Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Snell, 86, Meridian, died Sunday in F. G. Riley Memorial Hospital. She was a member of the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Bobby Snell, Meridian; two sons, Ray W. Snell, Meridian, and Reese H. Snell, Hattiesburg; a sister, Zexa Waltman, Overton, Texas; and five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation was to be today from 6-9 p.m. at Webb Funeral Home.

Richard McLemore Offered Free Land to Any Settler

Richard McLemore was born in Virginia, Sept. 21, 1798. He married Nancy Perry Hill, also of Virginia, and in 1831 he moved into what is now Lauderdale county. Here he bought several thousand acres—the entire region of Meridian and Marion—and built his home.

This home was made of hewn logs, mortised with wooden pegs, and built about a long hall with stone chimneys at either end. The old O'Neil house on 11th Street and 18th Avenue was built around these logs on the original site.

Mr. McLemore early conceived the idea of situating a town in this region, partly because of its natural resources and advantageous position, but mostly to satisfy his own yearning for human associations outside of his family. His nearest neighbor lived eight miles away. As an inducement to settlers he offered ample lands free to many whom he thought would make desirable citizens in his town, the future Meridian.

By 1833 this region was sufficiently populated to warrant the organization of a county government, which was accordingly enacted. At this time Mr. McLemore built a more substantial home at the present site of Fifth St. and 31st. Ave. When the Mobile and Ohio railroad was projected through Old Marion, Mr. McLemore sold the remainder of his lands to L. A. Ragsdale and J. T. Ball for very little (one dollar per acre), and moved himself and family into the vicinity of Marion.

To McLemore and Nancy Hill were born two sons: Joshua and Caleb; and seven daughters; Mary, Nancy, Martha, Lavina, Sarah, Charity, and Juriah. Sarah McLemore, the sixth child, was born in 1833. Her birth is the first recorded white birth in Lauderdale county. After the death of Nancy Hill McLemore in 1858, Mr. McLemore married Catherine E. Carter, and after her death, Isabella Ann Roberson. He died Aug. 11, 1881.

Mr. McLemore built the first Baptist church in Lauderdale county, on what is now sixth street and 16th avenue. During the Civil War this church was turned into an arsenal and later into a hospital. To replace the building, Mr. McLemore erected the Calvary Baptist Church on the ground where the Dement Printing company now stands. After this building had been bought by Dement Bros. most of the members went to the First Baptist church, which stood on its present location. Toward the construction of this church Mr. McLemore had contributed the bulk of the necessary funds. His grandson, W. J. David, was the first missionary sent out by this congregation. Mr. David was sent to Africa.

When Mr. McLemore came to Lauderdale county he brought with him an old relation, a Mrs. Tiner. When she died he buried her behind the church he had built. One after another of his family was added to the same plot until, after some time, the McLemore cemetery was insituated and given to the usage of the public.

In the possession of Mrs. Oscar Yarbrough of Meridian is the first "store bought" cradle ever used in this section of the state. It was brought here by ox cart from Mobile by Richard McLemore for his daughter, Inez (Mrs. Inez McLemore Parker), who was Mrs. Yarbrough's mother. The cradle, finished in a simple spooled effect with a canopied cover, was quite a novelty and attracted visitors from miles around. Mrs. Yarbrough presently has it stored at Hickory.

The old family Bible, from which most of the information in this article was taken, is being kept at the home of Meridian businessman, T. J. McLemore, a great-grandson of Richard McLemore.

There are, of course, no children of this Meridian pioneer living today, however, two grandchildren still make their homes in Lauderdale County. They are Mrs. Silas Thompson and Mrs. Sally McNealy, both of Bonita.

aunt Sally
aunt Jip

Richard McLemore, Meridian's first settler, came to this area in 1831 after obtaining a large tract of land and built a log cabin at what is now the corner of 18th Ave. and 11th St. In the 1850s he sold much of his property to two men, John T. Ball and Lewis A. Ragsdale, who are responsible more than any other people for the founding of the town. This photograph was reproduced from an old tintype made of Mr. McLemore in his later years.

MR. MCLEMORE AS A YOUNG MAN

MARY married Joseph Yarbrough, son of Ambrose

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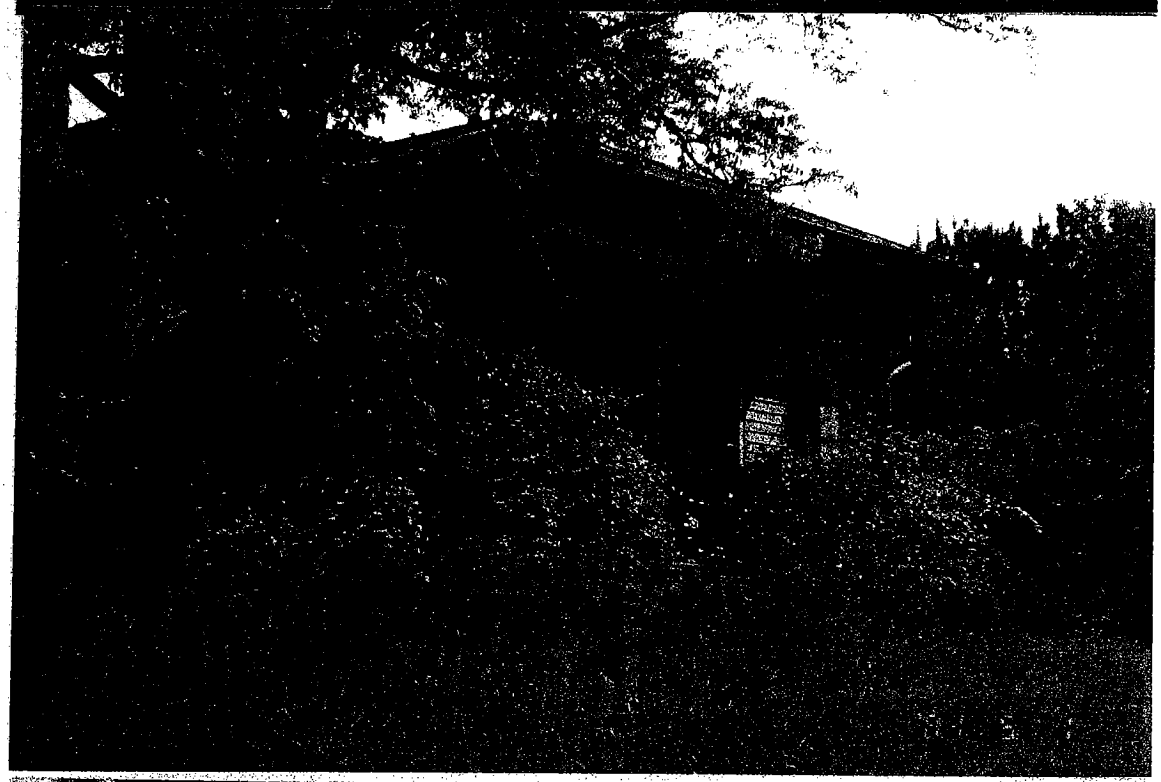

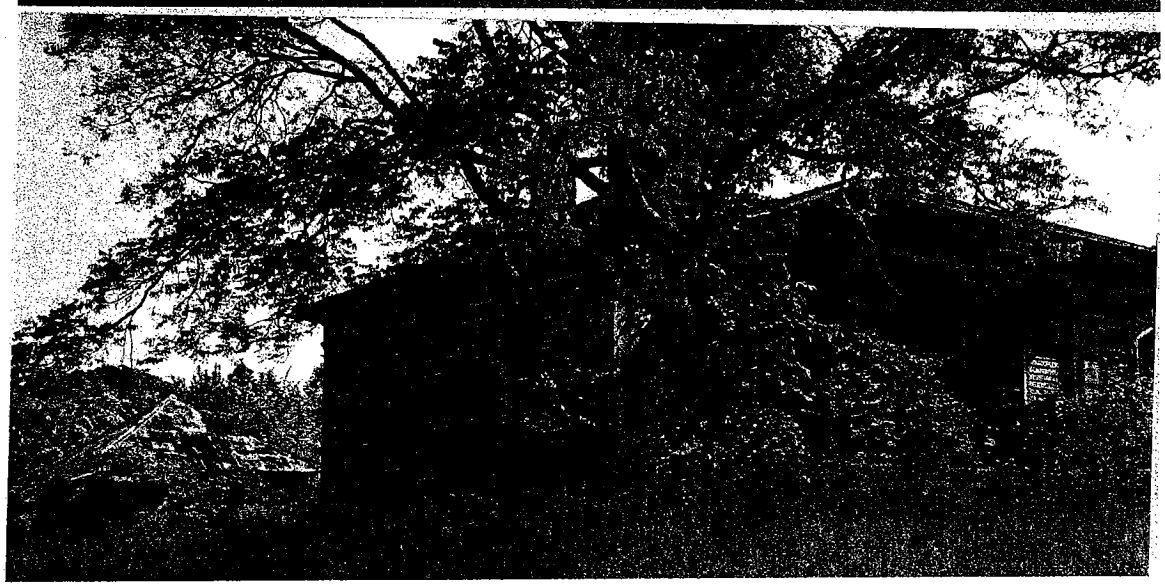

LAST
Richard
mckemore
House

THE.

HOLY BIBLE;

CONTAINING

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:

TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES;

Family Record.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD.

DEATHS.

Martha Allen Daughter of
hard and Nancy P. M. Lemore
d September 26, A D 1852,

ah Allen Daughter of
rd and Nancy P. M. Lemore
d March 3, A D 1855.

Nancy Keeton Daughter of
hard and Nancy P. M. Lemore
d May 4, A D 1856.

ng Barbrough Daughter of
hard and Nancy P. M. Lemore
d December 4, A D 1857.

ncy P. M. Lemore wife of
chard M. Lemore died
tember 30, A D 1858.

Catharine E. M. Lemore
wife of Richard M. Lemore
died April 5, A. D. 1872.

Richard M. Lemore
died August 11 1881
age 82 years

edge cut off Previously

Family Record.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD.

DEATHS.

Martha Allen Daughter of
Richard and Nancy P. M. Lenoir
died September 26, A.D. 1852,

Sarah Allen Daughter of
Richard and Nancy P. M. Lenoir
died March 3, A.D. 1855.

Nancy Kenton Daughter of
Richard and Nancy P. M. Lenoir
died May 4, A.D. 1856.

Mary Fairbrough Daughter of
Richard and Nancy P. M. Lenoir
died December 4, A.D. 1857.

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Richard M. Lenoir died
September 30, A.D. 1858.

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wife of Richard M. Lenoir
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Richard M'Lemore died
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wife of Richard M'Lemore
died April 5, A.D. 1872.

Richard M'Lemore Sr.
died August 11 1871
age 82 years

Edge Cut OFF Previously

Family Record.

BRING UP YOUR CHILDREN IN THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

BIRTHS.

Richard M'Elmore Son of Thos. and Equilla M'Elmore was born September 6th A.D. 1798

Nancy Ann M'Elmore Daughter of Caleb and Mary Hill was born March 20 A.D. 1802.

Mary M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born May 14th A.D. 1822.

Nancy M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born September 12th A.D. 1823

Martha M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born November 5th A.D. 1826

Caleb Hill M'Elmore Son of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born January 7th A.D. 1828

Lavina M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born May 15th A.D. 1831

Sarah M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born February 9th A.D. 1833

Charity M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born July 12th A.D. 1835.

Sarah M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born March 5th A.D. 1837

THE

HOLY BIBLE;

CONTAINING

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:

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Richard M'Elmore Son of Enos and Equilla M'Elmore was born in Jefferson Co. A.D. 1798.

Nancy Ann M'Elmore Daughter of Caleb and Mary Hall was born March 20 A.D. 1802.

Mary M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born May 14 A.D. 1822.

Nancy M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born September 15 A.D. 1823.

Martha M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born December 23 A.D. 1826.

Caleb Hill M'Elmore Son of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born January 7 A.D. 1828.

Lavina M'Elmore Daughter of Richard and Nancy P. M'Elmore was born May 15 A.D. 1831.

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